



## *Flying again*

**B**ald eagles are big, beautiful birds. But when they get hurt, they sometimes need people to help them get better so they can fly again.



This eagle has injured its wing. Because it cannot fly or hunt for food, it has become thin and very weak.

A doctor called a veterinarian examines the eagle carefully. The eagle is weighed and x-rays are taken.



The x-rays show the doctor where the wing bones are broken.

Surgery is performed to repair the broken bones. During surgery, the eagle breathes through a plastic cone to inhale a gas that keeps it asleep.

After surgery, the eagle rests and heals in a small, quiet cage.





Before it can fly again, the eagle must exercise and strengthen its weakened muscles. It is soon moved to the flight room, a large cage where it can practice flying safely.



After a few weeks, the eagle is anxious to return to the wild. First, it is put on a long line to keep the eagle from escaping before it is strong enough to survive on its own.

The eagle's wings are still so weak that it can fly only a few feet. But the eagle and its caretakers practice every day.

*Finally, the eagle is strong and ready to fly free.*



Photographs by Ron Winch